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NEWS RELEASE



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District Attorney's Office Seeking Romanian Defendants in Skimming Fraud

VENTURA, Calif. – For the past two years, the Ventura County District Attorney's Office Government Fraud Unit was part of a joint investigation with the Los Angeles FBI office into widespread EBT skimming fraud. This investigation contributed to an international law enforcement effort to dismantle the Dorneanu Organized Crime Group, a Romanian criminal organization linked to the theft of hundreds of millions of dollars in California welfare funds, including funds stolen from Ventura County residents.

On February 17, 2025, the FBI announced the culmination of a two-year investigation conducted in partnership with Romanian authorities. According to the [FBI](#), Romanian police executed 24 search warrants in Mureş and Braşov counties. Authorities seized devices used to clone EBT cards, electronic components, documents, mobile phones, laptops, large sums of cash, and six vehicles. This extensive international effort led to the arrest of 11 individuals in Romania.

"Our office remains committed to protecting Ventura County residents from fraud and financial exploitation," said District Attorney Erik Nasarenko. "This investigation demonstrates the importance of collaboration between local, federal, and international law enforcement agencies to dismantle organized crime groups that target public assistance programs."

The Ventura County District Attorney's Office is actively seeking two Romanian defendants with outstanding Ventura County felony warrants for EBT skimming fraud. Paul Kimpian (aka Roman Janecek) and Marius Vlaic, known affiliates of the Dorneanu Organized Crime Group, were previously arrested by the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation, and charged with more than a dozen felony counts, including conspiracy and grand theft, related to several instances of



Paul Kimpian
(aka Roman Janecek)



Marius Vlaic

CalWORKs theft using cloned EBT cards. Each posted \$50,000 bail in April of 2023 and are alleged to have violated bail terms by cutting off GPS ankle monitors and fleeing. If you have information about their whereabouts, please contact your local law enforcement agency or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

The Ventura County Human Services Agency contracts the District Attorney's Office Government Fraud Unit to investigate CalFresh and CalWORKs fraud. The unit tracks CalWORKs skimming theft using data from the California Department of Social Services. Since 2021, Ventura County welfare clients have lost \$2,162,673 to EBT skimming fraud, affecting some of the county's most financially vulnerable residents.

The Ventura County District Attorney's Office will continue to provide updates as new developments arise in this case.